



January 19, 2020

To: MNICS Agency Partners

From: MNICS Operations Working Team

Subject: MNICS Type II IA Crew Program – Application Period Open

The MNICS Type II IA crew program is seeking qualified applicants for the following positions: CRWB, CRWB(t), FFT1/ICT5, and FAL2 for 2020. Individuals must be NWCG qualified for the position(s) they are applying for and be employed by one of the MNICS agency partners.

Refer to the attached application for submittal direction. **The deadline is March 15, 2020.**

Minnesota mobilizes more Type II IA crews than any other state in the Eastern Area. MNICS crews are well trained and highly respected. In 2020, despite a marginal fire season Nationwide, MNICS mobilized four Type II IA crews through this program.

One of the **primary goals** of the MNICS Operations Working Team is to maintain an organized and effective Type II IA crew program. We encourage managers, supervisors, fire management officers, and fire team leaders within the MNICS agencies to put forth high-quality applicants. The support and commitment of supervisors is extremely critical to the success of the Type II IA program. Supporting MNICS training, IMTs, and the Type II IA crew program should be a priority that stands next to agency-specific priorities.

The Type II IA crew program has proven itself to be a valuable training platform. Annually, we provide top quality trainee assignments that produce fully qualified CRWB, FFT1/ICT5, and FAL2 for all MNICS agencies. This training platform also serves to provide a stable future for our crews as returning members serve important mentor and trainer roles. Individuals who would like to participate but are unable to commit to a primary position should be encouraged to consider an alternate position.

Individuals selected for the primary positions are expected to honor availability commitments, as further explained in the [MNICS Type II IA Interagency Handcrew Operations Guide](#). Crew availability begins following the MN Wildfire Academy in June.

Another critically important commitment is the attendance at the Crew Cohesion Workshop. This is a preseason workshop that brings crew resources together, provides current information for the mobilization season, and builds on the elements that make our crew program a success. The workshop will likely be conducted in May in Grand Rapids.

Questions regarding the MNICS Type II IA Crew program can be directed to your local FMO/FTL or the following:

- Jason Westholter (USFWS) [jason\\_westholter@fws.gov](mailto:jason_westholter@fws.gov)
- Zach Saumer (USFS-SUF) [zachary.saumer@usda.gov](mailto:zachary.saumer@usda.gov)
- BJ Gotchie (BIA-LLA) [robert.gotchie@llojibwe.org](mailto:robert.gotchie@llojibwe.org)
- Seth Nelson (NPS-VOP) [seth\\_c\\_nelson@nps.gov](mailto:seth_c_nelson@nps.gov)
- Nick Abel (DNR) [nick.abel@state.mn.us](mailto:nick.abel@state.mn.us)
- Natasha Woodwick (MNICS) [natasha.woodwick@bia.gov](mailto:natasha.woodwick@bia.gov)

Thank you for your consideration.

*MNICS Operations Working Team*